**Detours**

**Life Group #5**

1. Joseph had to do a lot of waiting! Read Psalm 39:7. When we are forced to wait on an answer, or new direction, where is the only place we are to put our hope?

In God alone.

1. Read Genesis 41: 39-44. Describe Joseph’s new position?

Joseph is now second in command in all of Egypt just beneath Pharoah.

1. In Genesis 42: 1-2, why are Joseph’s brothers in Egypt?
   1. In Genesis 42:7-8, why do you think they did not recognize Joseph?

They probably didn’t recognize Joseph because he was poor and sold into slavery. They would not expect to see Joseph as a wealthy ruler of Egypt.

* 1. How does Joseph test his brothers in verses 15-16?

Joseph tests them by putting all but one in prison and having the one go and get their youngest brother. Since the youngest brother is actually Joseph, he is going to see what they choose to do.

1. Read Genesis 45:1-15
   1. What phrases make you see that Joseph truly forgave his brothers?

“But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.” Vs. 5

* 1. What did Joseph tell his brothers to say to their father?

He said to tell their father that he (Joseph) is alive and is in command of Egypt. Also that there are 5 more years of famine and they should move to Goshen so that Joseph can take care of them.

* 1. How did he protect his brothers?

He gave them grain to survive and offers to take care of the whole family for the remaining five years of famine.

1. We all have people we need to forgive at some time in our lives. What do you see in Joseph’s life that can help you forgive big and small things that others do to you?

We should not be angry or hold grudges because God allows people to do us wrong ultimately for a greater purpose. The setbacks and persecutions are meant to get us where we need to go.